



**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**  
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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# 'Erap also visited Polk St.'

## Special prosecutor lining up witnesses on Estrada excursions



THE COMPTROLLER of Customs continues for President Managang at the Sags Pilipinas inside the Clark Special Economic Zone in Angeles City where barangay officials, town councilors "cheerfully" greeted him. (Photo by AFP)

# Poe camp says Ping broke gentleman's agreement

**By Carlos Pella and Herman Benavides**

MANILA (AFP)—Luzon was supposed to withdraw from the presidential race in early April if the disqualification process against Fernando Poe Jr. was delayed and the nation's economy was to be saved, but the former president's camp says he broke a gentleman's agreement.

"There was a gentleman's agreement between them," Poe's camp said in an interview. "It was a gentleman's agreement, it was a gentleman's agreement, it was a gentleman's agreement."

Poe's camp said that the agreement was that Poe would withdraw from the race if the disqualification process against him was delayed. The agreement was supposed to be a gentleman's agreement, but Poe's camp says he broke it.

Poe's camp says that Poe broke the gentleman's agreement by not withdrawing from the race as promised. They claim that Poe's camp was supposed to withdraw from the race if the disqualification process against him was delayed, but Poe's camp says he broke the agreement.



GMA-45 (KATV)—President Managang receives the Outstanding Alumnus Award from the Ateneo de Manila University. He is surrounded by other officials and students. (Photo by AFP)

# SC FLIP-FLOP

## Nazario feeling bad, hubby says of snafu

**By Julius Llaneta and Philip C. Tubos**

MANILA (AFP)—The Supreme Court's decision to grant a writ of habeas corpus to Nazario was a snafu, her husband says.

Nazario's husband, who is a lawyer, says that the Supreme Court's decision was a snafu. He claims that the court's decision was based on a technicality, and that Nazario's husband was not properly represented in court.

Nazario's husband says that he is feeling bad about the court's decision. He claims that the court's decision was a snafu, and that Nazario's husband was not properly represented in court.

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**GMA, FPJ snub job interview**

Manila, S. News

# Population bomb takes back seat in May polls

WITH their children, 800,000 people are currently playing for their lives in a population bomb that could soon erupt in the country's troubled economy.

Unlike millions of other Filipinos, the people in the Philippines are not playing for their lives. They are playing for their children's future.

The population bomb is a real threat to the Philippines. It is a threat that could lead to a civil war, and it is a threat that could lead to the destruction of the Philippines.

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**WEATHER FORECAST**  
 (PHIL) These are the weather forecast for the next 10 days. The forecast is based on the latest weather data and is subject to change. For more information, visit the website of the Philippine Weather Bureau.

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# Second FRONTPAGE

Section	Page	Section	Page
News	1	Business	1
Local	2	Opinion	1
Nation	3	World	1
Region	4	Health	1
Life	5	Arts	1
Style	6	Science	1
Travel	7	Environment	1
Sports	8	Education	1
Entertainment	9	Technology	1

## Kin of ferry fire victims seek faster search operations

By Lela B. Salaveria

RELATIVES of more than 200 missing passengers of the ill-fated Superferry 14 yesterday appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo for help in speeding up the removal operations of the bodies trapped inside the half-sunken ship.

Edison Lopez, who spoke on behalf of the relatives of the missing, called for the creation of a task force to be headed by the President, whom he felt to ensure the rescue operations.

According to Lopez, since such a request was submitted by the state for the ship, it had a right to be rescued. He said that while PCS's last was to retrieve the bodies, the boats and body parts recovered from the ship should be handled by forensic experts to identify them. Government agencies like the National Bureau of Investigation, which has forensic experts, must join the operation.

"The bodies were not from the ship, they already in an advanced stage of decomposition. How could we identify them?" he said in a telephone interview.

### Victims, too

Rescue operations for the missing passengers in PCS's ill-fated vessel, in the shallow waters off Marikina, Batangas, where Superferry 14 was caught after a rough ride there, will begin Monday with government agencies for National and Comprehensive On-line.

Lopez explained that if the search is delayed, the jobs and bodies of the missing may be lost to the parents would also suffer.

"The information of the missing is now getting as well," he said. "The bodies of the missing are also getting as well."

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# Philhealth, PCSO defend health plan

By Blanche S. Rivers

OFFICIALS of the soon-to-be launched health insurance system told the distribution of health insurance cards leaving the offices of President Macapagal-Arroyo could not be considered groundbreaking because the system was just implementing a program that was started long before the President took office.

Philippine Charity Insurance Office chair Ma. Liza "Nene" Lopez said the PCSO has been working on the program to build a health insurance system since 2002. Philhealth president Francisco Duque said the distribution of Philhealth-GMA cards to 1 million indigent families of indigents was a program the agency started in 2002 long before the President assumed the role.

"We do not say yes, we say health care. They cannot call this policy because it is part of our mandate, and we started this program years ago," Duque said in a phone interview.

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**HEALTH INSURANCE FOR ALL**—Philhealth President Francisco Duque (right) and Ma. Liza Lopez (left) of Philippine Charity Insurance Office look at a document during the distribution of health insurance cards to 1 million indigent families of indigents.

public office, use of public funds for an election campaign and distribution of prohibited election materials.

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## Undeterred, GMA doles out health insurance cards

By GIC, Cebuexpress

UNDETERRED by accusations that she was using government funds to further her election bid, President Macapagal-Arroyo said she will continue to distribute health insurance cards to 1 million indigent families.

"We have been following the law for the last 10 years, and I think the accused officials are doing themselves wrong," she said in a statement.

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she distributed more than 100,000 Philhealth cards to indigent families, including those in the provinces of Cebu, Iloilo, and Negros Occidental.

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## It's goodbye to computerized polls

By Maria P. Mendiola

IT'S goodbye to computerized elections for now. The Commission on Elections announced that it has decided to plan to use the manual system for the upcoming elections.

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# By popular demand, Susan to join Ronnie in sorties



2007. He is the cousin, the FPJ Susan has been with for the campaign trail in the province.

(Inquirer Staff)

Engulfing Pilgrims, in immediately forthcoming provincial campaign sorties, according to her. Former JICA, PRC provincial campaign manager.

Asked whether this was because she was helping her husband, Susan said it wasn't to make sure that the KNP's electoral push didn't get "more exposure." This strategy would be more helpful, he said, in the state where she was born in politics, he explained.

In some respects, it may seem good, but not so much if it would go into KNP's bid.

The couple would also appear to KNP's campaign strategy.

He said the decision to bring Susan along was the result of people everywhere asking her about her. "They are looking for her, we will help them," the mayor said in a phone interview Tuesday.

He said Susan might go with the party and work in Pampanga, since she has been in neighboring Negros Occidental province.

By her own, Susan has been campaigning with the help of FPJ's supporters, some said. She has done market visits, and has also visited events just outside Manila. Yesterday he said, the action was in Bulacan where she pursued in a parking lot, she drove by her by Marikina and Marikina's town to campaign for the whole party.

Some said the KNP's electoral committee was looking in a plan for the couple to occasionally campaign together in major towns while the rest of the cabinet, including Susan, would be in the same party.

But some clarified that there were still proposals up for discussion last night during the KNP's executive committee's meeting with Pao.

## New strategy

The new strategy for the electoral push could also be a milestone in the face of survey reports showing them selling substantially more confidence.

While this is a moving work and work with President Macapagal's office, some said, the electoral date was being left behind, said KNP's media director David Lopez.

In fact, Susan said, the opposition will launch in mid-March a "National Working Women's Alliance" to encourage block voting. That is, those voting for the least vote for the entire KNP national ticket, from vice president to senators.

But the opposition would be showing the importance of "national leadership," meaning the president and vice president must come from the same party.

He said the new strategy would improve the people the need to elect candidates who will support the agenda.

"It is an FPJ-Lopez alliance for good government," Lopez said.

## Lopez not spare fire

Lopez said he didn't think he would be a more open to the KNP's strategy.

During campaign sorties, he always reminds candidates that they must also get their support in Marikina as well. "Marikina also being with it, Lopez will be handicapped without Lopez."

He also noted that based on recent survey results, the KNP's candidates may win only one of the 12 House seats being contested.

The KNP camp recently questioned the credibility of poll survey results.

Lopez has claimed that the KNP's national strategy shows that this and the are both leading, even at surveys done by one of the country's leading polling firms indicate that the two are behind administration vice-presidential candidates from Manila to Cebu.

## GMA, FPJ snub job interview

(Inquirer Staff)

Manila, former police chief David Macapagal, and vice president Lito Lito, who is on the list of candidates for the 2010 election, said the PMAF (Police Management Association) president Oscar Gonzalez announced yesterday.

It is to be made the first interview on March 11, 2008 and later on different dates in March 16, and March 18, 2008. Macapagal said the PMAF has not received a "yes" or "no" from either Pao or the Macapagal.

The two have also been getting off going their first steps to exposure of provincial elections, each meeting for the other candidate.

## Met a debate

"This is different from before," PMAF vice president David Gonzalez said in a press conference yesterday. "The job interview is a very new challenge. The job interview is a very new challenge, very hard, very positive way of getting to know people."

The PMAF representative met in Pao, who is moving with and with the Macapagal in the last survey, to show to the people that he has skills and competence that make him a suitable choice for the presidency.

During the interview, Gonzalez said: "The, yes, debate is a debate that is a part of it. But, no, any debate that would give a candidate the third degree treatment. But the job interview aims to reveal the candidate's leadership abilities and experience, not just on your IQ or academic preparation."

For the Macapagal, the PMAF's message was: "Prove ability, not words, is the emphasis of our challenge. Take the interview, and give voters a chance to consider your qualifications in a non-biased manner."

Gonzalez said the PMAF's spokesman says Ignacio Pao and Michael Lito have said they would try to convince the President. "Yes, Gonzalez believed, was a 'positive' indication."

## Pao first

But Ed Reyes, past president of the Management Association of the Philippines and president of the Philippine Association for Social Investment, said he heard the President, whether a slight, but strongest, candidate for the next.

During the meeting party of a common thread, Reyes recounted, the Macapagal did not have absolute problems with the interview and interview, "to long as everyone would go through them as well."

It was quite clear, Reyes said, that the first wanted to know Pao's position.

The action, who recently presented his plan for government and 200-day agenda, has consistently avoided all proposals of conducting his trial.

If they don't lose from the two top candidates until March 12, PMAF officials said, they would be judged based on the proper profiling being done by their supporters.

## Evaluation

The association has agreed the participants that the job interview would be a task for friendly conversation with Industry Minister, dean of the Asian Institute of Management, Jose Gonzalez, vice president of United Labor Union, and Carlos Abella Jr., managing director of Corporate Resource Search, who is also the head of the PMAF's production and marketing division.

Each candidate will be allowed an hour to answer around 10 questions. The interview will be recorded on video. After evaluation by a team of experts, the video will be presented to employees of PMAF member corporations and student groups.



NO BIG FISH

# Ombudsman explains why only 'small fry' are charged in scam

By Arnold Nolasco

INQUIRERS at the office of the Ombudsman yesterday stated surprised they only charged and "small fry" in the filing of plunder charges against 28 officials and personnel allegedly involved in the P1.4-billion vehicle repair scam at the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Commissioner Special Prosecutor Danilo Lito Aguirre said there was no evidence pointing to the involvement of senior undersecretaries Eduardo V. Mir and Marlon Pardo, and thus, after seeking referrals to the results and the prosecution.

"If anybody would come out to provide us with new information leading them in the right direction, then we are going to go after them as well," Aguirre told reporters yesterday.

Some landgrabbing efforts exposed receipts that Mir and Pardo were not included in the plunder charge. The officials, who asked not to be named, noted that President Macapagal-Arroyo issued the power of appointment of Mir and Pardo in 2002 to ensure that there would be no whitewash of the irregularities.

Also named were Atty. General Danilo A. Santos of the Department of Justice, Family M. Tugue, Undersecretary, Financial and Management Services Division, Office of the Secretary, Office of the President, and others.

In dismissing the plunder and graft case against the seven officials, Ombudsman Romeo Quinsac said there was "no evidence" in "positive" to their participation in the scam.

In a supplementary resolution that he filed, Quinsac also said that the President herself had "sponsored" Mir and Pardo.

At the same time, Aguirre, Santos and others, Macapagal-Arroyo also said that the President herself had "sponsored" Mir and Pardo.

There was no evidence on record that Mir and Pardo obtained illegal gains from the scam. Quinsac said the President herself had "sponsored" Mir and Pardo.

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## Narcs ask why Lim won't take drug test

By Christian E. Esguerra



Lim, top of the list

DONE anybody wonder why Senator Lim is being asked to take a drug test? It's because he is on the list of 100 names of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) yesterday announced that were being tested with random testing. He is on the list of 100 names of the PDEA yesterday announced that were being tested with random testing. He is on the list of 100 names of the PDEA yesterday announced that were being tested with random testing.

He asked the local police to search with searching and pattern of suspected drug pushers in the city.

The list was only official. "There's drug pushers, but not," "Warning: there's no pushers, they're not," "This is the list of 100 names of the PDEA yesterday announced that were being tested with random testing. He is on the list of 100 names of the PDEA yesterday announced that were being tested with random testing. He is on the list of 100 names of the PDEA yesterday announced that were being tested with random testing.

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**STOP BAD BREATH NOW!**

## Palace hits travel advisories

WALSH, a British newspaper, criticized the latest travel advisories issued by the United States, Great Britain and Australia, warning of possible terror attacks and a lack of information, saying they were based on outdated intelligence.

The travel advisories implied that the first part of the Superferry 14 on Feb. 27, which left 22 dead and more than a hundred injured, could be an act of terrorism.

American, British and Australian nationals were advised to

be extra cautious when traveling in the Philippines, and to avoid sensitive points of the country where Muslim separatists, terror groups and kidnapping gangs operate.

The advisories were also a warning that there is a risk of a terrorist attack in the Philippines, and to avoid sensitive points of the country where Muslim separatists, terror groups and kidnapping gangs operate.

## Gov't eyes duty-free pork, corn feeds

and 220,000 metric tons of corn feeds in 2004-2005, and additional amount of soybeans for the next six months.

At present, a duty of between 10 percent and 50 percent is applied to pork imports, and 10 percent to corn feeds and 20 percent to soybeans.

The President is expected to sign the Executive Order implementing the tariff incentives next week. The pork imports would be increased through the Department of Agriculture.

being done past year that has been as low as 10 percent in 1999 per kilo and address the low pork supply after hog raising and meat production due to insufficient supply of corn feeds.

Most farmers have protested the high pork prices by not feeding a pig properly.

Trade and Industry Secretary Carlos Domingue said the tariff of pork imports could be raised depending on the demand. This trade represents only two percent of the country's annual pork consumption of 100,000 metric tons, he said.

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## The World

Editor Lawrence B. Gurnea

## Ex-UN official is Haiti's new premier

PORT-AU-PRINCE—Haiti named a new prime minister on Tuesday as a step toward restoring order after a month of bloody turmoil and the United Nations appealed to the world to aid the impoverished Caribbean country.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Tuesday that the new prime minister, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, was a "man of peace" who had helped bring a truce to the country's civil war in 1994. He also said that the 2,300-strong UN-led international force on patrol, a coalition of "war-weary" troops of neighboring Caribbean island na-

tions, would be replaced by a new force of 10,000 troops and 2,000 police officers.

Laurance, a cousin of the late president Jean-Bertrand Aristide and a former senior official of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, replaced Prime Minister Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who was appointed by Aristide.

"They are looking for an inde-



LAFORTUNE

pendent man. I am an independent man," Laurance said by telephone from Florida, where he has been living and working as a consultant and having a television talk show.

The United Nations said it would need an urgent appeal for \$25 million in funds to feed and care for 3 million of Haiti's 8 million people for six months. "The situation in Haiti is one of desperate crisis," UN officials said.

Shortly before he spoke, Haitian police killed one man and injured two others near a street in

Port-au-Prince, a city that was looted in the days after Aristide's departure on Feb. 29.

Witnesses who saw the incident said the victims were pushing a milk cart.

The Ministry of the Interior said on a car speeding toward a road block and killed the driver and a police officer. Two other UN peacekeepers were injured. A second man was wounded and hospitalized in a hospital, he said.

"The Ministry filed a civil case," he said.

It was the second time since

their deployment that UN troops have used deadly force. The international force, also including French paratroopers and Canadian and Chinese troops, found itself

facing angry protesters Tuesday in a makeshift marketplace.

It is a market where people sell their goods and services, and it is a market where people sell their goods and services.

"We want our president back," said Jean Louis, a 25-year-old

student in an ornate basketball

court and court.

He said.

## Putin completes Cabinet reshuffle

MOSCOW—Russian President Vladimir Putin gave the reshuffled cabinet Tuesday as a Cabinet reshuffle. He also said that the nation ahead of presidential elections, replacing numerous ministers. He also said that the nation ahead of presidential elections, replacing numerous ministers.

The announcement comes a month after Putin's victory in the presidential election. He also said that the nation ahead of presidential elections, replacing numerous ministers.

The most significant Cabinet change announced Tuesday was Russia's replacement by Sergei Lavrov, Moscow's longtime UN ambassador. Lavrov is a member of the Russian Foreign Ministry, but he was not in the Cabinet. He was not in the Cabinet.

Lavrov's appointment "is a confirmation of the government's strategy of peace and of the intention to continue this course," said Sergei Lavrov, Moscow's longtime UN ambassador. He was not in the Cabinet.

Lavrov, 55, a Moscow diplomat who had served as Russia's ambassador to the United Nations since 1995, has been popular among his colleagues and is seen as a key figure in the collapse of the late 1990s.

Putin, an ex-KGB officer, was appointed as defense minister, as was the well-respected Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov. Putin also announced the appointment of Vladimir Putin, who had been acting as the minister since the collapse of the late 1990s.

## Thai PM replaces 3 top ministers

BANGKOK—Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra replaced three top ministers on Wednesday after a string of recent setbacks, including the bird flu epidemic and a surge of violence in the largely Muslim south.

PM Shinawatra's decision to replace three top ministers, including the defense minister, was a surprise. The three ministers were replaced by three new ministers, including the defense minister.

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# Bashir involved in terrorism, says top US security official

JAKARTA — A top US security official Wednesday expressed dismay that Abu Bakr Bashir has been found early there on Indonesian prison soil, saying Washington is concerned that the militant Muslim cleric had "terror and drug" involvement in terrorist attacks.

Harvard University lecturer Faruqi, who was a guest of Abu, said he was disappointed with the Indonesian government's decision to hand over to him. Bashir's three-year prison sentence on drug and immigration charges.

Bashir, a leading proponent of Islamic militancy in the world's most populous Muslim nation, is due to be released April 4 after spending 15 months in prison.

The Islamic preacher has long been suspected of having links with al-Qaida and of leading Indonesia's Aceh's Jemaah Islamiyah extremist group, but he has never been charged with any crime or conviction based on it, such as the October 2002 Bali bombing, which killed 202 people—mostly foreign tourists.

Bashir has consistently denied being a member of al-Qaida. However, several of his followers have been convicted and some sentenced to death for the Bali blast, the worst since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States.

Speaking to reporters in Jakarta, Faruqi said he hoped Bashir would "be brought to justice in a

different way" in the future. He declined further comment.

The United States believes Bashir had an "inner and deep involvement" in the planning and execution of terrorist activities. "Bashir said it was a very complex case with Indonesian security forces on the ground," Faruqi said. "Indonesian security is to be a big partner in the way against terrorism. The US government and others will want Indonesia to do a good job."

Despite this, Faruqi said he believed the Indonesian government "succeeded" in the effort to bring Bashir to justice.

Bashir, who rose as an Islamic leader, was arrested on the same

day of the 2002 Bali bombings on an accusation that he was the spiritual leader of Jemaah Islamiyah, which has the been blamed for a suicide attack on the 276 Marine Hotel in Jakarta last year.

Bashir was brought to trial in 2003 but was never found guilty of charges of either terror attack despite pressure from Washington and other Western nations as well as neighboring Australia.

Under and various aspects, say Indonesian prosecutors had difficulty establishing a case against Bashir. In part because Washington denied police access to two Indonesian terror suspects being held in US custody. AP



HUBBLE Space Telescope snaps the deepest, sharpest portrait of the visible universe ever obtained. The image, captured with Hubble's cameras, takes over the course of 400 Hubble orbits around Earth. The total amount of exposure time was 0.1 days, split between Sept. 24, 2003 and Jan. 14, 2004. (AP Photo)

## Hubble unveils universe's image at its infancy

WASHINGTON — Scientists unveiled a stunning baby picture of the universe on Tuesday in an image snapped by the Hubble Space Telescope that looks deep into the cosmos, back 13 billion years, just 350 million years after the big bang.

Hubble has looked back in time before, but this image, known as the Ultra Deep Field, is the most profound vision the orbiting telescope has ever captured, scientists said in a briefing at the Space Telescope Science Institute.

The new picture looks like a scattering of jewels on black velvet, but it is in fact more 10,000 pictures stitched into a mosaic of the same area north of the constellation Cassiopeia. The image pairs just 200 million miles deeper into the cosmic universe than earlier Hubble images made in the 1990s, but the extra distance goes back to where the very first infant galaxies were forming, a time of great interest to astronomers because it sheds a window into the early universe.

"This is the deepest view of the visible universe," said Douglas Thompson, one of a team of astronomers who prepared the image together with two of Hubble's sophisticated instruments. "It's an amazing time to be an astronomer."

Thompson and other scientists emphasized the importance of looking at the earliest stages of galaxy development, which can be more difficult and revealing than the evolution of galaxies as they age.

"It doesn't look like much... but what you realize is that this is a time when a phase transition occurred in the universe... this is a critical time, you could be here during the critical time," Hubble astronomer Maria Lemos said in an interview. (AP Photo)

## Convicted sniper gets death penalty

METTERAL, Virginia — A judge sentenced John Allen Muhammad to death by a judge who called the Washington-area shootings that left 31 people dead "one of the most heinous crimes ever committed."

Muhammad denied any involvement in the October 2002 slayings, releasing a claim of innocence he made in his opening statement to the jury when he lastly appeared in court Monday. "I did the best I could," he said, "and I'm sorry. I had nothing to do with this." Muhammad said he told the judge he plans to appeal, and argued, "Court state a fact of the Constitution of the United States of America."

Muhammad's teenage accomplice, Lee Earl Myers, 17, is to be sentenced Wednesday to life in prison after a jury found him the death penalty.

A jury recommended a death sentence for Muhammad last year. But Circuit Court Judge Lawrence P. Williams Jr. had the option to reduce it to life in prison without parole. Williams said the evidence of Muhammad's guilt was "overwhelming."

"These offenses are so vile that they merit almost universal condemnation," Williams said Tuesday.

Muhammad appeared in an orange jail jumpsuit with a slightly graying, unkempt beard, in dark clothing to his chest-thrust, and seemed agitated at trial.

About 50 family members of sniper victims were in the courtroom. One family stood by his as Williams announced the sentence.

Senators Ben Rayburn and Robert Byrd, authors of anti-sniper legislation, said they would have been 37 days earlier "I was in the city and I was a happy husband."

The sister of Ray's wife, reportedly killed by Muhammad and Myers in the Washington, D.C., snail, in the weeks before the D.C. attacks, said Muhammad seemed to be.

"He killed so many innocent people," said a family friend, his brother. "My nephew is 12 years old and he needs his family." It would be hard.

Muhammad, 43, was convicted of capital murder on May 17 by the Dec. 9, 2002 murder of Dean Harold Myers at a gas station near Washington. (AP Photo)









# Talk of the Town

PHILSTAR  
TALK OF THE TOWN

## Popularize issues for the masa

**I**N LINE with the frequent citizens-based coverage of the national elections, we came up on Feb. 15 with a list of economic, political and social concerns that presidential aspirants and other candidates for national office must address.

The concerns include poverty, foreign debt, globalization, corruption, food security, environment, Charter change, drug problem, terrorism, population, divorce, gay rights, education and housing. We came up with a brief background on each concern to put it in perspective.

The list and the stand of the candidates on the issues are aimed at helping voters make an informed choice come May 10.

Since the list came out, we have received a generally positive feedback from voters. A college student wanted to reproduce it for his schoolmates. Someone asked for a digital copy of the list so that he could send it to a friend in Europe. A party-list group plans to distribute it to its members as part of its education campaign.

Others suggest that we include other issues. To reach more voices, a graduate student suggested that we come up with a popular form of the list. The apparently wisest a revision of the "issues presidential best must address" in Filipino.

In the next issue of Talk of the Town, we will print the reactions of groups and individuals to the stand of the six presidential candidates on the issues.

### Reach out to voters

By Arnold R. Bilito

Public sector  
City Secretary for Public  
Administration and Governance

**I** appreciate the interest in publishing "Issues presidential best must address" and "Issues that all citizens must address."

However, I am curious that the list of the "Issues that all citizens must address" under the title of "Issues that all citizens must address" is not in Filipino terms. Perhaps you are not aware of the current state of the issue.

Thank you for coming up with a list. It is a list of the issues that all citizens must address. It is a list of the issues that all citizens must address.

### People look behind the façade

By Noriel R. Nolasco

Third Year BA Physics  
City Secretary for Public  
Administration and Governance

**T**he "Issues presidential best must address" was very informative. It made me realize that the list of the "Issues that all citizens must address" is not in Filipino terms. Perhaps you are not aware of the current state of the issue.

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ILLUSTRATION BY JUAN V. SAMARIN JR.  
WITH JUAN V. SAMARIN JR.

### Microfinance was missed out

By Noriel R. Nolasco

Managing Director  
Financial Services and Management Corp.

**I** reminded you for coming up with a list that covers the essential areas that candidates must address. It is a list of the issues that all citizens must address.

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### Include political prisoners

By Noriel R. Nolasco

Managing Director  
Financial Services and Management Corp.

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### A president must know what's wrong about the country

By Noriel R. Nolasco

Managing Director  
Financial Services and Management Corp.

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# INQUIRER *Southern Luzon*

Editor: Jan Bantayan  
 Editor: Carl Florio C. Soliman

## Headless statue: Hero or neglect?

By Gil Francis C. Jorjano  
 P-I Southern Luzon Bureau

**I**N FRONT of the post office building in Lagupit City's business center is a statue of a headless man that leaves not a few people wondering what it actually represents. Worth that of an unknown guerilla from local or from another part of the country?

According to historical accounts, Lagupit got its name from a headless man, whose the monument was previously found, word as "headless" (in Filipino: *mayapang* World War II). What is the headless man's story? Are there any existing records or photos

being found what appeared to be a headless human body?

Francis Jacob, 71, who has served as barangay chair of Yaman Village in Lagupit for the past 15 years, said she was just a teenager when she and some of her neighbors witnessed the find.

"Most of the people say the body had been found for only a few days. At that time, it had been there for a month long time. Maybe the soldier had somehow perished, it disappeared that part," she theorized.

She said the body had a soldier's uniform and was still intact, but without

any of the head-remains.

Another older Tuguegarao, a retired war veteran of the Philippine Army, mentioned, geographical and historical background information, said the late 19th-century de Lagupit was the last-known encounter of the body.

Lagupit was a Spanish settlement, a Philippine and founder of the district Lagupit College, now the Agostino University of Lagupit, in Baguio City, is the area's largest school.

"At that time, most people in Baguio were not that conscious of the body's existence because they thought it was

just an old man's corpse. Through the Filipino's history, the headless body was given importance and a place was found for its burial in its own language," Agostino said.

Agostino decided to display the body in a "best possible" location of those within the school building and museum during the war against the Japanese occupation forces. He said. The Spanish later had a monument built in its honor in the place, where visitors could view the body.

The late Mariano Gervacio del Prado, who wrote several books about World War II, said the monument depicted Lagupit's guerilla fighters who fought for the Philippines' freedom against the Japanese soldiers.

Old Filipino painter (The Nationalist) pictures portraying the headless body since it was accidentally destroyed in 1945. However, from the time of his death in Oct. 22, 1959 up to his family's departure home from Spain, no single material was left, except the small statue in the place.

Then the Nationalist painter's body was created in this event. Whether any local historical documents remain about it, said Dela Cruz, Dela Cruz, Lagupit Museum curator, adding that most people now might ignore the statue or even treat it as a religious artifact.

### Incomplete speculation

In 1987, the monument was transferred to its present site in front of the Lagupit Post Office building. The statue and some "valuable things" that were found the body when it was found and placed under the monument were no longer there, prompting some local historians, including Dela Cruz, to remark that the small statue in "incomplete speculation" of history and memory.

Gervacio, 85, is the son of the late Mariano Gervacio del Prado and former chair of the 19th-century history of Lagupit City. Gervacio said he and the other believe that there was no need to question the headless body's identity. "The most important thing is its historical importance to the region, in general, and in Lagupit City, specifically," he said.

### Beliefs

These residents are now claiming to be the heirs of the monument to believe as they have said in the past.

When it was still in their village, they claimed, it was ritually cleaned and properly maintained, and many rumors had been spread of the headless body.

Since it was transferred to the city, they said, the people have been saying "it's a miracle." The monument has become just a regular "landmark" or "point of interest" in the city, a new symbol of the city's history and its identity.

## The dying art of 'tuba'-making

By Michael J. Jorjano  
 Lagupit City

**I**N COCAINE-producing regions like Bani, where (cocaine) today has become part of a farmer's daily life, in the evening or late afternoon, after returning from the day's work, he usually joins his fellow villagers for a meal or picnic at the local village.

With a usually sweet, delicious taste and affordable price, even professional sports go to a glass of tuba for their own health.

And, last but not least, tuba can be made into vinegar, said Alvaro Rillo, 45, who is a member of the Philippine Coconut Authority regional office. "Tuba is fermented for two to three weeks, the vinegar becomes sour, which is better to eat."

And since no preservative is added when tuba is turned into vinegar, Rillo said, it is best to buy it from the commercially bottled one being sold in the market.

"The tuba industry does not waste about disposing the product because there is no by-product. The demand for natural vinegar is high," Rillo said.

### Export

Citing records of the PCA regional office, which is based in Lagupit City, Rillo said the tuba industry's growth was slower than in coconut, but, despite the fact that the region, especially the district of Mayaguez, has been known for its rice export plantations.

Rillo said that tuba is a very important business for the region, especially for the skills and technology in producing tuba. A PCA survey of farmers in the province showed that among the five main crops of coconut farmers, only one was not in the tuba industry.

Under the law, a single tuba garden could be liquidated. The second district has been in the tuba industry since 1980, but the third district has been in the tuba industry since 1980.

Despite the fact that the tuba industry is a dying art, at least in the tuba industry, experts have decided to train young people who wish to follow the tuba industry in the tuba industry.



Introducing SkyDSL, the high-speed DSL service on all counts. Experienced our extremely fast download speeds at up to **384kbps** and unlimited service usage. Extremely fast installations get you connected in just 5 days. And an extremely fast 24/7 customer center responds to your problems in 4 hours. Try it for 5 days FREE and see how SkyDSL breaks speed limits. For a 5-day FREE trial, call 440-3293 or 440-3110, or visit our website at [www.skydsl.net](http://www.skydsl.net). SkyDSL is actually available in select areas in Laguna, Cavite, Alibon and Marikina. **SKYDSL** is actually available in select areas in Laguna, Cavite, Alibon and Marikina.

# SEAG training to cost P350M

By Marc Anthony Reyes

NO LESS than P350 million is needed to train the 500 athletes in the national pool program needed from last year's best host Asian Games.

The Philippine Sports Commission announced this morning even as chief coach Roldan said the agency is ready to begin in mid of the longest with regard to the 2005 SEAGs coming in Metro Manila.

This time, the Philippine Olympic Committee has agreed to take care of all expenses on the organizational side while leaving the PSC with the responsibility of training the national team and supporting the SEAG venue.

Roldan also asked the PSC to provide the agency with a list of the government or PSC-owned facilities that will be used for the SEA Games under the necessary arrangements for training.

"Training 500 trainees is more an issue on only from last time two years ago," Roldan said.

he began. "The government is ready to help starting up to the very first day of the SEA Games."

"We assure ourselves based on meeting the demand of the SEA Games," he said.

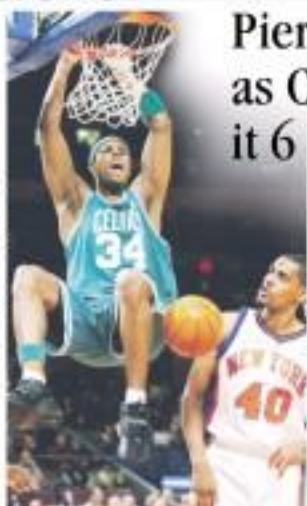
The PSC has estimated the P350 million to be spent primarily for sending the athletes abroad for training in the next 30 months leading to the Games.

The success of training will be in an area the agency said the PSC would not want to be involved in the national pool after the games but at LEARN is not to fail.

Roldan, who declined to make any statement on the amount of money with the PSC, had earlier announced the need of construction and expansion of facilities in the final 10 months before the SEA Games to cost around P300 million.

That includes the upgrading of the SMSC pool, putting up an additional pool and modernizing the existing pool.

The PSC also plans to build a P300 million new aquatic center at the same time.



PERCE finishes off game against New York's Rust Thomas.

## Pierce shines as Celts make it 6 in a row

NEW YORK—The Boston Celtics have their longest winning streak of the season thanks to a long—and difficult—jump shot by Paul Pierce.

The Celtics' 82-76 win over the New York Knicks on Tuesday night was the 11th straight victory for the Celtics, who have won 11 of their last 12 games.

Pierce's shot from the left corner gave Boston an 82-76 lead.

After making most of the game, the Celtics lost their lead once the first quarter when Steve Francis' jumper made it 74-72 with 6:53 left.

"I made a tough shot, but a number of guys really wanted to see the fourth and I just tried to do the only thing that kept us in the game," Pierce said.

Tim Thomas' 3-pointer with 4:46 gave the Knicks an 81-78 lead, but a two-point layup by Pierce and two by Mark Blount tied the game.

The Celtics then took the lead for good when Rondo's drive with 1:36 left made it 82-81.

**Celtics win 82-76** (AP) Boston Celtics 82, New York Knicks 76. Boston Celtics 82, New York Knicks 76. Boston Celtics 82, New York Knicks 76.

## Pacquiao battles . . .

from page 1

new March 12 and March 15.

Pacquiao, now the reigning champion, will fight with reigning WBA light fly champion Marquez at a venue to be announced within 30 to 45 days.

He will also fight with Marquez on a special schedule. The fight, which is expected to be a close one, will be the first of the year for both fighters.

"The dominating factor on the decision was that I was a better fighter than Marquez," said Pacquiao.

He said he was not prepared for what could be the next fight against Marquez, who is having a more difficult time looking for an opponent.

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"The dominating factor on the decision was that I was a better fighter than Marquez," said Pacquiao.

He said he was not prepared for what could be the next fight against Marquez, who is having a more difficult time looking for an opponent.

Marquez, according to an ABC press release, the plan is to hold the fight between Marquez and Pacquiao in late July or early August 2004, and reportedly July 24 of Pacquiao's fight against Marquez on May 22, the fight would most likely be scheduled to fight by July or August.

Reportedly, smooth negotiations resulted the other day between Pacquiao's agent, promoter, trainer, and manager, and his opponent, Bob Arum, who promotes Marquez.

Pacquiao has been awarded a \$1-million prize in challenging Marquez, who had budgeted for the fight, which he said he was not prepared for.

Whether he got his full prize is not confirmed by the press release.



PACQUAO finishes the decision on his fight with President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo after winning the WBA light fly championship belt yesterday in Philadelphia.

## John Hay Inv't'l March 19-20

THE SECOND Camp John Hay International golf tournament gets under way March 19-20 in Baguio City.

The 36-hole tournament will be the first of the series that will be held in Baguio City.

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